IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A sealing device comprising ~~for~~ a tank access opening, including a guideway, ~~comprising~~ a ball displaceably supported inside the guideway of the tank access opening in such a way that on insertion ~~introduction~~ of a fuel nozzle into the guideway, the ball opens the tank access opening, wherein the guideway is aligned at and acute angle (α) to the direction of insertion of the fuel nozzle.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) The sealing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the guideway ~~ball~~ is ~~guided in~~ a sleeve.

4. (Previously Presented) The sealing device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a sealing ring, against which the ball rests in a sealing position, the sealing ring being arranged at the access opening.

5. (Previously Presented) The sealing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein a diameter of the ball is greater than a diameter of the tank access opening.

6. (Previously Presented) The sealing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ball is acted upon by a force in the direction of the tank access opening.

7. (Currently Amended) A sealing device comprising a tank access opening a ball displaceably supported inside the tank access opening in such a way that on insertion of a fuel nozzle the ball opens the tank access opening ~~The sealing device as claimed in claim 1 further comprising~~ a counterweight assigned to the ball to compensate for acceleration forces.

8. (Previously Presented) The sealing device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the counterweight is coupled to the ball by a lever.

9. (Previously Presented) The sealing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sealing device is a module fixable to a fuel tank filler neck.

10. (Currently Amended) A sealing device for a tank access opening as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tank access ~~ccss~~ opening is a fuel tank filler neck in motor vehicles.

11. (Currently Amended) The sealing device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the force is ~~a spring-loading~~ spring-loaded in the direction of the tank access opening.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Currently Amended) The sealing device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the sleeve includes a recess provided on an underside in a direction towards the tank access opening ~~fuel tank filler neck~~.

14. (Previously Presented) The sealing device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the spring loading is a compression spring.

15. (Previously Presented) The sealing device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the force is a weight or force-storage devices arranged on a lever.

16. (Previously Presented) The sealing device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a slide which loads the ball in a direction of the tank access opening.

17. (Previously Presented) The sealing device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the slide is coupled to a rotatably supported lever.

18. (Previously Presented) The sealing device as claimed in claim 17, further comprising a counterweight, situated at the end of the lever, opposite the slide.

19. (Currently Amended) A sealing device for a fuel tank filler neck, comprising:

a ball supported on a guideway, which is aligned at an acute angle to a longitudinal portion ~~extent~~ of the fuel tank filler neck;

a sleeve for guiding the ball, the sleeve having a recess provided on an underside of in a direction towards the fuel tank filler neck;

a sealing ring, against which the ball rests in the sealing position, is arranged at an access opening of the fuel tank filler neck;

means for applying a force upon ball; and

a counterweight assigned to the ball.

20. (Previously Presented) The sealing device for a fuel tank filler neck as claimed in claim 19, wherein the means includes a compression spring, a weight or force-storage devices arranged on a lever.